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Statement submitted by Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Addressing the Current Achievements and Challenges of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 towards the Fulfilment of Gender Equality and Well-being with Linkages to Social Protection

Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network welcomes this opportunity to address current achievements and challenges of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 as it works towards the fulfilment of gender equality and wellbeing with linkages to social protection for focusing on rural and women with disabilities.

In the light of the theme of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, attention is being drawn to the connections between social protections systems, gender equality and the wellbeing and the inability of women and girls to overcome persistent inequalities and discrimination in the current society.

Drawing on these concerns, Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network and its national allies will emphasize the following considerations in the panel discussions and plenary sessions:

Poverty associated with Inconsistency in Social Protection Programs

The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session (E/2017/27) set out the steps and measures necessary to overcome persistent inequalities, discrimination and barriers that women face in the current world of work, and action that is needed to ensure that women can take full advantage of the opportunities arising as the changing world of work. Improving national social protection systems is a major task for the government. In Nigeria social protection programs such as National Poverty Eradication Program, Employment Trust Fund, Micro-Credit Scheme and health Insurance Scheme are inconsistent in the implementation process. They lack continuity, are poorly designed, and there is an absence of a clearly defined policy framework with suitable regulations for poverty reduction. Poor implementation of a comprehensive and effective social protection system subjects women and girls to poverty and violence.

Non-domestication of relevant convention and treaties prevents women and girls from exercising their full Potential and fundamental freedom

Gender equality is vital for the attaining of progressive and sustainable economic development and a peaceful environment. Accordingly, given the existence of the human rights treaties, international human rights standards and consensus documents, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government is obliged to ensure the protection of and legal certainty for women by incorporating the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women.

In 2015, the Nigeria government has made some progress through the creation of Violence Against Peoples (Prohibition) Act 2015 (VAPP Bill). This act prohibits all forms of violence in public and private life, and provides maximum protection and remedies for victims and punishment for offenders. But it is implemented only at the federal level and only in three states. Lack of proper domestication of relevant

convention and treaties prevents women and girls from realizing gender equality and the empowerment and have the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms including women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

In consideration of the issues raised, Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network recommends the following:

Current and future social protection programs in Nigeria effectively designed, monitored and funded in order to have impact on women and girls.

There should be provisions of a national legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures to enhance the realizing gender equality.

To make an inclusive progress, civil societies will continue to advocate for proper implementation of gender equality, including promotion and protection of human rights, social justice and equity.